

# Black Lung

Steve Earle

Sunrise lightin' up the ridgetop  
Slicin' through the frost like a red-hot knife  
Sometimes I dream that I'm a-runnin' across  
But I couldn't now to save my life  
Hound dog yippin' in the holler  
Musta jumped a bear, bubba, listen to him run  
Somebody oughta catch him by the collar  
But I ain't goin' nowhere cause I'm down with black lung

Black lung never gets better  
Every breath a little bit harder to draw  
Shotgun loaded in the corner  
Reckon I'ma lie here and die of black lung

Some days are better than the other ones  
Sit out on the porch when it's cool at night  
Can't say there ain't them that I'm sufferin'  
Every breath I take like a twelve-round fight  
Grandbabies out beneath the willow tree  
Hollerin' and laughin' and it sound like fun  
Can't pick 'em up and hug their necks anyway  
Sorry, honey, granddaddy's down with black lung

Black lung never gets better  
Every breath a little bit harder to draw  
Shotgun loaded in the corner  
Reckon I'ma lie here and die of black lung

Seem like it was only yesterday  
I pulled my first shift in a longwall mine  
First breath of fresh air at the whistle  
And I already knew it's just a matter of time  
If I'd never been down in a coal mine  
I'd live a lot longer, hell, that ain't a close call  
But then again I'd a' never had anything  
And half a life is better than nothin' at all

Black lung never gets better  
Every breath a little bit harder to draw  
Shotgun loaded in the corner  
Reckon I'ma lie here and die of black lung

Black lung never gets better  
Every breath a little bit harder to draw  
Shotgun loaded in the corner  
Reckon I'ma lie here and die of black lung

Black lung never gets better  
Every breath a little bit harder to draw  
Shotgun loaded in the corner  
Reckon I'ma lie here and die of black lung